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ANNUAL REPORT.

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

of

THE ALCESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1925.



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	39,891
Population (census 1921, and estimated 1925)				12,326
Number of inhabited houses (1921)				2,898
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)				2,994
Rateable value.	...	...	...	69,563
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	290

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA:-

The whole of the district is on the Keuper Marl.

It is cut into valleys by the rivers Avon, Arrow and Alne; and the highest land is about 400 feet above sea level.

Agriculture is the chief occupation of the inhabitants. There are needle factories at Alcester, Astwood Bank, Ipsley and Studley.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births (Legitimate	Total 206	M 102	F 104)	Birth Rate	17.2
(Illegitimate	6	2	4)		
Deaths	172	83	89	Death Rate	14
Number of women dying in, or in (	from Sepsis	...	None		
consequence of childbirth (	" other causes...	...	None		
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births					47.2
Legitimate 9.	Illegitimate 1.		Total		10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	None	
" " Whooping cough (all ages) ..	...	...	...	5	
" " Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	None	

The Poor Law relief, and the Alcester Workhouse Infirmary are under the control of the Alcester Board of Guardians.

No causes of sickness or invalidity have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year; and no special conditions either of occupation or of environment appear to have had a prejudicial effect on the health of the inhabitants.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by The County Council:-

Tuberculosis)	
Maternity)	If paupers at Alcester Workhouse Infirmary.
Children)	
Fever.	Alcester Infectious Diseases Hospital, 32 beds.
Small-pox.	One small hospital.
Other.	If paupers at Alcester Workhouse Infirmary.

No other hospitals are available within the district.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON

Printed by J. Streater, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1679.

THE SECOND PART

OF

THE HISTORY

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The Birmingham Hospitals and the General Hospital at Stratford-on-Avon have supplied the district, but unless the patients are subscribers to the different hospitals great difficulty has often arisen with regard to their admission and to their subsequent stay in the hospital.

The only Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area is at the Alcester Workhouse if the people are paupers.

Ambulance facilities:-

- (a) There is an ambulance for the removal of infectious cases.
- (b) There is no ambulance for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

There is an Infant Welfare Centre at Alcester, known as the Alcester Infant Welfare Centre.

It is held at the Baptist School Room in Meeting Lane, Alcester and consists of two rooms and a lavatory.

There is also an Infant Welfare Centre at Bidford, known as the Bidford Infant Welfare Centre. It is held in the Co-operative Hall, High Street, Bidford, and consists of two rooms and two lavatories.

Both Welfare Centres are voluntary agencies, in each case a Doctor attends, but no treatment is provided.

Maternity and Child Welfare is not undertaken by the Local Authority, and as far as I know, no member of the Local Authority is a member of the Committee of either the Alcester or the Bidford Infant Welfare Centre.

Day Nurseries.	...	...	None
School Clinics.	...	...	None
Tuberculosis Dispensaries.	...	...	None
Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases.			None

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

- (a) Whole time officers. The Sanitary Inspector.
- (b) Part time officers. (1.The Medical Officer of Health.
(2.The Sanitary Inspector.

Contribution is made under the Public Health Acts to the Salaries of the above mentioned officers.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (a) General. No arrangements have been made wholly or in part either by the County Council or by the Local Authority for professional nursing in the home.

There are private nursing associations for general nursing in Alcester, Bidford and Studley.

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The Nurses employed by these Associations are also practising midwives.

(b) For Infectious Diseases. No arrangements have been made in the area for the nursing of infectious diseases in the home.

Midwives:-

With the exception of the Alcester Workhouse Infirmary, no practising midwives are either employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

Thirteen midwives have practised in the area during the year.

Chemical Work:-

No arrangements are in force for chemical work in the Area.

Legislation in Force:-

List of adoptive relating to the public health in force) in the area with date of adoption.)None

List of byclaws relating to the public health in force in the area with date of adoption:-

Cleansing of footways and pavements.	26th May, 1877.
Nuisances.	26th May, 1877.
Common Lodging Houses. ...	26th May, 1877.
Removal of offensive matter through streets.	26th May, 1877.
New streets and buildings.	26th May, 1877.

List of Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force in the area with date of adoption:-

The only regulations in force are those of the County Council.

The work of the Local Authority is not related to or administered in co-operation with, the medical and ancillary services of National Health Insurance, or of the Voluntary Hospitals or of the Poor Law or other agencies.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1960

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1960

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area:-

Water.-

Alcester, Arrow and part of Oversley are supplied by the Alcester Waterworks Company. The water is good and during the year the supply has been ample and continuous. The sources of supply are a deep well, a spring and a bore hole all in the Parish of Arrow. Five hundred and fifty houses are supplied with water from the waterworks in a population of 2,200

Studley, the population of which is 3,000, is supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Seven hundred houses are supplied by the Company, the water is good and the supply is continuous.

Crabbs Cross, the population of which is 1,000 is supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, two hundred and fifty four houses are supplied and the supply is continuous.

All other parts of the district are supplied from surface wells, in some districts these wells are more or less contaminated.

No steps have been taken to improve the supply of good drinking water either to Bidford or to Great Alne.

Rivers and Streams.

The only pollution is from sewage within the district, and this is dealt with as far as is possible.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

The drainage of Alcester was carried out about fifty years ago, the Sewers are very flat, they are in a bad condition and do not run well. The Sewage is treated in tanks and a percolating filter; the effluent is good.

The filtering area is being extended in order to deal with the whole of the Sewage.

Studley is well drained, a considerable amount of work has been carried out in recent years. Provision is being made to treat the whole of the sewage by tanks and filters.

The drainage of Bidford is bad, new sewers are being laid and tanks put in order to lessen the pollution of the river Avon.

The remaining villages drain into surface water drains, and in a number of these re-drainage has been carried out.

The drainage of the whole of the district has been improved in recent years.

1884

The first of the year was a very successful one for the school. The pupils showed a great improvement in their work, and the teachers were very pleased with the results. The school was also very busy with the various exercises and games which were held during the year.

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The ninth of the year was also a very successful one. The pupils continued to show a great improvement in their work, and the teachers were very pleased with the results. The school was also very busy with the various exercises and games which were held during the year.

Closet Accommodation:-

Both in Alcester and Studley water-closets are in use. In only a few instances privies exist, and in these instances there would be a difficulty in connecting water closets with the sewers.

In Bidford privies are converted into water closets when drainage facilities exist, and when there is a sufficient supply of water for flushing purposes. There are 50 water closets, the majority of which empty into cesspools; and 250 houses with pan closets.

In Crabbs Cross there are 10 houses with water closets, and 143 houses with pan closets.

Scavenging:-

The whole of the houses in Alcester have movable ashbins with proper covering, about 400 ashbins to 526 houses.

The whole of the houses in Ipsley have movable ashbins with proper covering, 211 ashbins to 253 houses.

Movable ashbins are being supplied both at Bidford and at Studley.

All ashbins are emptied weekly. The removal of night soil and refuse has been carried out regularly during the year. Night Soil is removed weekly both at Bidford and at Crabbs Cross. Ashpits, earth closets and cesspools are emptied both at Bidford and at Studley as often as necessary.

The following conversion from ashpits to movable ashbins with proper covering has taken place since the beginning of 1924.

Alcester	526 houses	all to movable ashbins.
Bidford		100 ashpits to movable ashbins.
Ipsley	153 houses	all to movable ashbins.
Studley		200 ashpits to movable ashbins.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|
| (a) | Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects during the year. | ... | 83 |
| (b) | Number of statutory notices served during the year. | ... | Nil |
| | Number of informal notices served during the year. | ... | 63 |
| (c) | The result of the Service of informal notices:- defects remedied. | | |

Smoke Abatement. No necessity for any action to be taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations:-

There is one common lodging-house in the district, this has been frequently inspected and has been found to be satisfactory.

No underground sleeping rooms are known to exist in the area.

Schools.

Alcester Church of England School and Haselor Council School have been completely redrained.

HOUSING.

I. General housing conditions of the Area:-

(1) General housing conditions:

There is a general shortage of houses for the working classes in the area. Many of the older houses are in bad repair.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage of houses.

There is a general shortage of houses in Alcester, Bidford, Salford Priors and Studley.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage:-

In Salford Priors the Local Authority is negotiating for the purchase of land for the erection of eight houses.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future:-

There has been no important changes in population in the area in 1925.

II. Overcrowding:-

- (1) There is a slight extent of overcrowding.
- (2) The causes are unemployment and high rents.
- (3) Notices are served in bad cases of overcrowding.
- (4) There was only one bad case in 1925.

III. Fitness of houses:-

- (1) (a) The general standard of housing in the area is fair.
- (b) The general character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses is dampness, want of ventilation (windows are not made to open), and defective ceilings and floors in the half-timbered cottages.

(c) The defects are due to the age of the houses which makes satisfactory repair practically impossible.

- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses:-

All action is taken under the Public Health Acts.

- (3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness:-

The difficulties are that the houses are in an old and dilapidated condition, and the cost of repairs takes several years rent.

- (4) The cost of cleaning out wells often exceeds the maximum allowed by the Public Health (water) acts.

In Alcester, Bidford, Ipsley and Studley where scavenging is carried out the Local Authority has encouraged owners to provide movable ashbins in place of ashpits; and in other parts of the area privies are converted into pan closets whenever possible.

IV. Unhealthy Areas:-

No complaints have been received or representations made, in regard to unhealthy areas.

- V. Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c:-

The only byelaws in force in the area are those adopted on 26th May, 1877.

VI. General and Miscellaneous:-

No action, other than that already reported, has been taken by the Local Authority during the year 1925 in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property and housing under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| (a) | Total (including numbers given separately under (b) :- | 16 |
| (b) | With state assistance under the Housing Act:- | |
| (1) | By the Local Authority. | Nil. |
| (2) | By other bodies or persons. | 10 |

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses:

Inspection:-

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 83. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. | 50. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | None. |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 83 |

2. Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	63
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers:-

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. | None |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:- | |
| (a) | by owners. | None |
| (b) | by Local Authority in default of owners. | None |

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. | None |
|-----|---|------|

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 362 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| | (a) By owners. | 339 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. | - |

C. Proceedings under sections 11,14 & 15 of the Housing Act 1925.

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders. | None |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made. | None |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwelling houses having been rendered fit. | None |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | None |
| (5) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. | None |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply - The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the area is fairly satisfactory.

Cowsheds are regularly inspected and limewashing enforced when necessary.

Dairies and Milkshops are regularly inspected and have been found to be Fairly satisfactory.

- (1) Tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle:-

All necessary action is taken by the County Authority.

- (2) No licenses have been applied for for the sale of milk under special designations order 1923.
- (3) No difficulty has arisen with regard to the registration of retailers of milk.
- (4) The bacteriological examination of samples of milk is carried out by the County Authority and no samples are taken by the Local Authority.

(b) Meat:-

Meat inspection is carried out as often as possible.

- (1) Written notices of fixed times on fixed days for the Slaughtering of Animals for human consumption have been given by the butchers in the area, and the carcasses are examined as often as possible.

Written notices of the day, time and place at which slaughtering will take place are given by the owners of animals about to be slaughtered for human consumption, and when possible the carcasses are inspected.

No marking of carcasses is done under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

In all cases condemned meat is either buried or burnt.

- (2) Shops, stores and vehicles are regularly inspected. There are no meat stalls in the area.
- (3) There is not a public slaughter-house in the area.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES IN USE IN THE AREA.

	<u>In 1920</u>	<u>In January 1925</u>	<u>In December 1925.</u>
Registered	8	8	8
Licensed.	None	None	None
	----	----	----
	8	8	8

(c) Other Foods:-

Bakehouses and other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale are regularly inspected and their general condition has been found to be fairly good.

- (d) There have been no cases of food poisoning in the area.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Small Pox				1		
Diphtheria	22	18	8	16	30	33
Scarlet Fever	31	17	36	30	18	19
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)				1		1
Puerperal Fever				1	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica		1	1		1	
Tetanus					1	
Pneumonia	22	14	7	9	28	24
Polio-myelitis					1	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis						1
Erysipelas	6	4	7	4	5	3
Pyæmia				1		
Tuberculosis	23	22	18	17	24	23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1					1
Other Diseases	9					

No cases of either malaria, dysentery or trench fever have been reported in the district during the period since 1920.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied by the Local Authority, and is freely used either before or after admission to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

There has been one suspected "return" case of scarlet fever since 1920.

LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological examinations are regularly made at Birmingham University, the arrangements for which are made by the County Authority.

No arrangements have been made for the examination of pathological specimens.

Suspected "contacts" and "carrier" cases are examined bacteriologically.

Patients suffering from either small-pox, diphtheria, membranous croup, scarlet fever, enteric fever (including paratyphoid fever), cerebro-spinal fever are removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The houses in which either of the above diseases has appeared, and the houses in which other infectious diseases have occurred are either sprayed with formalin or disinfected with formalin lamps.

Clothing and bedding are removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital and placed in the Thresh's Disinfectors. *Thresh's*

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and Scarlet fever, and no use has been made of the artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

During the year 1925 no primary vaccinations, or revaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Cases of infectious diseases in Schools are notified fairly regularly by the Head Teachers.

The Schools at Alcester, Arrow, Aston, Aston Cantlow, Great Alne and Wilmcote were closed from the middle to the end of March in consequence of epidemics of influenza.

In the Registrar-General's Report only one death was attributed directly to influenza.

No special inquiry has been undertaken in connection with the epidemics of influenza.

There have been outbreaks of chicken-pox, German measles, measles, mumps and whooping-cough in various parts of the district.

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears in the records of the Court.

Witness my hand and seal of office at the City of New York, this 1st day of January, 1901.

CLERK OF THE COURT

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office at the City of New York, this 1st day of January, 1901.

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CLERK OF THE COURT

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING THE YEAR 1925.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Small Pox	None	None	None
Scarlet Fever	19	19	None
Diphtheria	33	30	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	None
Puerperal Fever	1		None
Pneumonia	24	None	2 7
Other diseases generally notifiable -			
1. Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1	1	1
2. Erysipelas	3	None	None
3. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	
Other diseases notifiable locally.			

There were no cases of Scarlet fever notified under one year of age. There were four cases notified between 2 and 3 years; Two between 3 and 4 years: Three between 4 and 5 years: Six between 5 and 10 years: Two between 10 and 15 years: None between 15 and 20 years: Two between 20 and 35 years:

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified under one year of age: There was one case notified between 1 and 2 years: Four between 4 and 5 years: Four between 5 and 10 years: Five between 10 and 15 years: Six between 15 and 20 years: Seven between 20 and 35 years: Two between 35 and 45 years: Four between 45 and 65 years.

The case of Paratyphoid Fever was aged 22 years:

The case of Puerperal Fever was aged 40 years.

TABLE NO. 10
Summary of the results of the
analysis of the soil samples

Sample No.	Soil Type	Moisture %	pH
1	Clay	25	7.5
2	Silt	20	7.8
3	Sand	15	8.0
4	Loam	22	7.6
5	Clay	28	7.4
6	Silt	18	7.9
7	Sand	12	8.1
8	Loam	24	7.7
9	Clay	26	7.5
10	Silt	19	7.8
11	Sand	14	8.0
12	Loam	21	7.6
13	Clay	27	7.4
14	Silt	17	7.9
15	Sand	13	8.1
16	Loam	23	7.7
17	Clay	29	7.3
18	Silt	16	8.0
19	Sand	11	8.2
20	Loam	25	7.6

The above table shows the results of the analysis of the soil samples. The soil types are Clay, Silt, Sand, and Loam. The moisture content is given in percent and the pH is given on a scale of 7.3 to 8.2. The results show that the soil samples are generally of a neutral to slightly alkaline nature. The moisture content varies from 11% to 29%.

These results are for the first set of samples. A second set of samples was also analyzed and the results are given in Table No. 11.

There was one death from Diphtheria 5 years of age.

There were 3 deaths from Pneumonia under one year of age:
Three between 2 and 3 years: One between 20 and 35 years:

There was one case of Pneumonia notified under one year of age: Four between 1 and 2 years: Three between 2 and 3 years: Two between 3 and 4 years: Two between 4 and 5 years: Two between 5 and 10 years: Two between 15 and 20 years: Four between 20 and 35 years: Three between 35 and 45 years: One between 45 and 65 years.

There was one case of Erysipelas notified between 35 and 45 years of age: One between 45 and 65 years: One over 65 years.

The case of Cerebro-spinal meningitis was 48 years of age.

One death from Cerebro-spinal meningitis 48 years of age.

Three cases of Diphtheria were satisfactorily isolated at home.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age-Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1-5								
5-10				1				
10-15	1	2	1					
15-20	1							
20-25				1		1		
25-35	2	4		1		2		
35-45	1	2		1				
45-55	1	1	1	1	1	1		
55-65	1				1	1		
65 and over								
Totals	7	9	2	5	2	5		

There were two non-notified tuberculosis deaths one female age 59 years,

One male age 64 years.

There has been no wilful neglect or refusal to notify cases of Tuberculosis.

THE STATE OF NEW YORK, SENATE,

January 1, 1891.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE, IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE, APRIL 1, 1890.

ALBANY: J. B. LEECH, STATE PRINTER, 1891.

THE LAND OFFICE, ALBANY, N. Y.

ALBANY: J. B. LEECH, STATE PRINTER, 1891.

CONTENTS.

THE LAND OFFICE, ALBANY, N. Y.

LANDS BELONGING TO THE STATE.			LANDS BELONGING TO THE PEOPLE.		
ACRES.	VALUE.	REMARKS.	ACRES.	VALUE.	REMARKS.
1	100	100	1	100	100

1	100	100	1	100	100
2	200	200	2	200	200
3	300	300	3	300	300
4	400	400	4	400	400
5	500	500	5	500	500
6	600	600	6	600	600
7	700	700	7	700	700
8	800	800	8	800	800
9	900	900	9	900	900
10	1000	1000	10	1000	1000

THE LAND OFFICE, ALBANY, N. Y.

ALBANY: J. B. LEECH, STATE PRINTER, 1891.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No report has been received of the employment of tuberculo~~ses~~ employees in the milk trade.

No action has been taken by the Council during the year under The Public Health Act 1925.

One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified, the child was treated in hospital and is totally blind.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. SPENCER, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS

AND LITERATURE

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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